



Montana

Office of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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MEMORANDUM

To: State Superintendent Denise Juneau
From: Variances to Standards Review Board
CC: Teri Wing, Accreditation Specialist
Date: August 6, 2013

Re: Variances to Standards Review Board Recommendations for September 2013 Board of Public Education (BPE) Meeting

Application 1. Initial request (2 years). This is a request for Troy district's elementary, junior high and high school to replace the Continuous School Improvement process in Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.601 (3) with the AdvancED school improvement process in which the schools are currently engaged.

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from W.F. Morrison Elementary School, Troy Jr. High School and Troy High School be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a system-wide means of school improvement.

Vote- 6 yes

Application 3. Initial request (2 years). This is a request for the Kalispell district's two high schools, Flathead and Glacier, to replace the Continuous School Improvement process in ARM 10.55.601 (3) with the AdvancED school improvement process in which the schools are currently engaged.

Recommendation: The Review Board recommends that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Flathead and Glacier High Schools be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement

process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a district-wide means of school improvement.

Vote- 6 yes

Application 5. Initial request (2 years). This is a request for Sweet Grass County High School to replace the Continuous School Improvement process in ARM 10.55.601 (3) with the AdvancED school improvement process in which the schools are currently engaged.

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Sweet Grass County High School be approved. The Review Board approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends Sweet Grass County High School for seeking a rigorous program of school improvement.

Vote – 6 yes

Application 6. Initial request (2 years). This is a request for Manhattan High School to replace the Continuous School Improvement process in ARM 10.55.601 (3) with the AdvancED school improvement process in which the schools are currently engaged.

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Manhattan High School. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI.

Vote- 6 yes

Application 7. Initial request (2 years). This is a request by the Helena Elementary School District for a variance to ARM 10.55.710, School Counseling Program. The request is to staff the K-5 counseling program with a blend of counselors and licensed social workers as described below (provided to the BPE by the Helena Elementary District as a corrective plan, July 2013):

Recommendation: The Variance to Standards Review Board recommends approval of the application for Standard to Variance to ARM 10.55.710 for Broadwater Elementary School, Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Four Georgians Elementary School, Hawthorne Elementary school, Jefferson Elementary School, Jim Darcy Elementary School, Kessler Elementary School, Rossiter Elementary School, Smith Elementary School and Warren Elementary School as presented.

Comments/Rationale:

Majority Report: The application material was results driven. The results appear to indicate that this model works well for the children, regardless of the combination of counselors and social workers. Schools can't meet the academic needs of children at school if the needs at home are not being met; the social workers can get out and do this.

Minority Report: Chapter 55 was just revised and the ratio of 400:1 was left as is. The Task Force must have had some reasoning behind keeping the ratio the same.

Vote- 5 yes, 1 no

Review Board Acting Chair Signature:



Date: _____